

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

September 17, 2018  
7:00 P.M.

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin called the special meeting of the Cultural Affairs Commission to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Chair Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin  
Commissioner Len Dickter  
Commissioner Tania Fleischer  
Commissioner Brenda Williams

Absent: Vice Chair Zoltan Pali

Staff: Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator  
Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator  
Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ashley Rodgers.

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**Public Comment - Items Not On the Agenda**

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the Commission:

Mark Lipman provided background on himself and Antonieta Villamil, and discussed creating a multi-lingual, multicultural international poetry and art festival for Culver City.

Antonieta Villamil discussed activities at Beyond Baroque in Venice, CA; writing poetry in Spanish; she wanted to see a poetry festival in the City; she read a poem; and she discussed restoration of the Robert Frost Auditorium noting that it is a great resource named after a great poet.

Ken Mand invited everyone to the Art Walk & Roll Festival on October 6; discussed activities and presentations; sponsors; participation by various City groups; the Cultural Affairs Foundation; and he noted the street closure on Washington Boulevard.

Keith Jeffreys, United States Veterans' Artists Alliance (USVAA), thanked staff for a productive meeting on August 28 at Veterans Memorial Building; provided an overview of activities at Veterans Memorial Auditorium; suggested replacing the building with a state of the art, world class performing arts center; discussed the Olympics in 2028; creating a destination; creativity as a driver for the economy; evaluating cultural assets in Culver City; and he indicated that he was available to discuss the history of AmVets, USVAA and their future in Culver City.

Dr. Janet Hoult indicated that she was assisting the Cultural Affairs Foundation with grant proposals; discussed the Artist Laureate Program; creating a formal process; timing; uncertainty of needed funds; costs for staffing; monies already set aside; donors; and she asked that the subcommittee reconvene to allow the process to move forward.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, clarified the amount needed to move forward with the program and next steps in the process.

Jim Clarke, Cultural Affairs Foundation, announced that National Taco and Vodka Day would be celebrated at Tito's Tacos on October 4 with proceeds going to the Cultural Affairs Foundation; discussed the Cultural Connection on October 9 with the Wende Museum, the Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum and the Culver City Historical Society; and he reported there is an arts facility tour scheduled for October 17 for potential donors.

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## **Consent Calendar**

### Item C-1

#### **Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of July 17, 2018**

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DICKTER AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE JULY 17, 2018 MEETING.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DICKTER, FLEISCHER, WILLIAMS, WISNOSKY STEHLIN

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: PALI

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## **Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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## **Action Items**

### Item A-1

#### **CAC – Update from the Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation (CCCAF) Including Consideration of the CCCAF's FY 2018-2019 Work Plan for Cultural Affairs and Schedule of Future Updates on Events and Activities**

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, introduced Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation Chair Ashley Rodgers and Vice Chair Jim Clarke noting that these items were included in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and the Foundation which requires the Foundation to present a copy of their work plan at the start of the fiscal year; and she reported consensus achieved at the August Foundation Board meeting regarding the schedule of quarterly updates.

Ashley Rodgers, Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation (CCCAF) Chair, presented the FY 2018-2019 CCCAF Work Plan; discussed the MOU between the Foundation and the City; support of the Commission; and identification of three programs requiring support: the Artist Laureate Program, the Performing Arts Grant Program and the Veterans Memorial Facility Enhancement Program.

Discussion ensued between CCCAF representatives, staff and Commissioners regarding the goal of raising \$54,000 over the next two years; disagreement with staff regarding the need to have all monies in place for two years for the Artist Laureate Program before implementing the program; the CCCAF commitment that funds would be available when needed; risk; raising a minimum of \$15,000 per year to supplement the Performing Arts Grant Program; the Artist Laureate Program; money raised to date; commitments for additional monies; proceeds from the Tito's Tacos event; separate programs with separate timetables; coordination; working together on milestones; specific items needed for Veterans Auditorium; presentation items; conducting a community survey and needs assessment for Veterans Auditorium; economic development; long-term sustainability for Veterans Auditorium; support for not having all the funds in place right away; the estimate for a full refurbishment of Veterans Auditorium; the acoustics study; accommodating different uses; next steps and timeline; clarification that the refurbishment is focused on the auditorium, not the meeting rooms which will remain open and accessible to the public; whether there exists a historic designation; clarification that any monies raised could be transferred if the building is razed; available funds for improvements made in the county over the next ten years; potential donors; identified improvements and the order of projects; sound issues; requests for a black box theatre space; lighting; use of the auditorium as a screening room; acoustics; money for the Artist Laureate Program; consistency with City procurement and contracting policies; the amount that the City committed to; the City policy that a contract cannot be entered into until the money is in place; making a request that the City Council revisit the issue; ensuring that there is an Artist Laureate program even if the Foundation is unable to raise the full

amount; revisiting the issue after the Foundation has an opportunity to raise money; clarification on City policy on what monies are allowed to be accepted; allowing an opportunity to work out administrative and policy issues; consideration of MOU changes at the October 22 City Council meeting; the need to resolve issues; whether the current City Council would commit funding if needed; clear guidance of who can contribute money; items on the work plan that the Foundation could work on; fundraising with the Culver City Education Foundation and the AVPA Foundation; creation of a project list; Foundation discretion to allocate unspecified funds to different projects; budgeted monies; open contracts; timing; the need to move things along; prioritizing the program ahead of other items; ensuring that fundraising adds value to the arts rather than supplanting City funding; and the annual Foundation work plan and budget.

Mark Lipman, veteran, artist and advocate, expressed interest in what projects are being planned for the Veterans Memorial Auditorium and he asked about sheltering options in an emergency situation.

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, indicated that Veterans Memorial Building is considered the emergency shelter for the City.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DICKTER AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLEISCHER THAT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION AFFIRM APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS SET FORTH IN THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOUNDATION LETTER DATED JULY 23, 2018.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DICKTER, FLEISCHER, WILLIAMS, WISNOSKY STEHLIN  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: PALI

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**Public Comment – Items Not On the Agenda (Continued)**

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin invited public participation.

No speakers came forward and no cards were received.

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### **Receipt of Correspondence**

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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### **Items from Staff**

Susan Obrow, Special Events Coordinator, discussed the Performing Arts Grant Program noting that it is funded by the Cultural Trust Fund; annual developer fees; the minimum City commitment of \$25,000 each year; she announced upcoming 2018 Performing Arts Grant performances; discussed applications received for the 2019 Performing Arts Grant Program; and the review process.

Louise Coffey-Webb, Public Art Collections Manager, provided a presentation on the Art in Public Places Program; discussed the 30th Anniversary; professional photographs of the public artwork; restoration of the brick zoetrope on Culver Boulevard; street banners; the walking tour booklet; the audio tour and mobile app; distribution of the booklet; and sketchbooks celebrating the Art in Public Places Program for all third graders at Culver City public schools.

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, discussed efforts by sewer repair workers to restore the brick zoetrope after they accidentally damaged it; the compact Art in Public Places walking tour book; and CAC Public Art subcommittee review of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a temporary art installation at City Hall in conjunction with the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Art in Public Places program.

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### **Items from Commissioners**

Commissioner Fleischer announced that she had been chosen to represent Culver City as a 2018-19 Activate Fellow, an arts advocacy program through Arts for LA; she discussed creation of an arts apprenticeship program; she thanked Commissioner Dickter and Vice Chair Pali for spearheading the Creative Economy Report; reported attending outdoor theatre performances in the park over the summer; discussed the profound and far-reaching impacts of the arts on people; noted the influence of City-supported programs; she was looking forward to starting the next round of Performing Arts Grants; and she expressed appreciation for the updates from the Cultural Affairs Foundation.

Commissioner Dickter announced that Eric Idle was coming to town; discussed the opening of the Robert Frost Auditorium; reported that a delegation from China would be visiting Culver City to have an open discussion about how cities and municipalities can work with arts, business and education to stimulate, grow and maintain a vibrant creative economy; he reported attending a walking tour organized in conjunction with the American Planning Association Los Angeles; and he reported that the Culver City Historical Society had many events planned for October.

Chair Wisnosky Stehlin reported that Culver City would host the LA County Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative workshop on September 19 at Veterans Memorial Building; she discussed recent training that she had taken part in; the focus on harassment in the September issue of *American Theatre* magazine; work by the theatre community on harassment, inclusion and representation; she commended staff for outreach efforts for the 2019 Performing Arts Grant Program applications; noted that October is National Arts and Humanities month; and she hoped to see everyone at opening night for the Robert Frost Auditorium on September 29.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:28 P.M., the Cultural Affairs Commission adjourned to a meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on October 16, 2018 in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

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SECRETARY of the Cultural Affairs Commission

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

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JEANNINE WISNOSKY STEHLIN  
CHAIR of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission  
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

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Jeremy Green  
CITY CLERK

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Date